Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 607.

Contracts in the Forest Department.

609. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the Forest Department invited tenders in the Gazette before giving all the contracts in 1103 and 1104; if not, the names of the contractors to whom contracts have been given without inviting tenders;

(2) whether all the trees that are to be felled and collected were marked before inviting tenders or giving contracts;

(3) what was the total quantity of timber (teak and rose-wood) collected from the A series coupe in 1103 and below 10 vannams in girth;

(4) what is the total number of undersized logs that are felled in the forests as well as those now stocked in the Chalakkudi depot;

(5) has the Department paid the felling and collection charges for these undersized logs to the contractors; if so, the amount so paid;

(6) whether there is a term in the agreement whereby the contractor is penalised for the collection of undersized logs;

(7) whether any undersized logs have been collected from the D series coupe; if so, the quantity of such logs;

(8) who was the officer deputed to inspect and pass the trees felled in the A series and D series coupes;

(9) will the Government be pleased to place on the Table of the House the marking list prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer and submitted to the Conservator of Forests in the recent collection of 9,000 candies of teak and rose-wood?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(1) Yes. None were given without tenders.

(2) Yes.

(3) (a) Cds. 890—19—22—6½.
(b) Cds. 249—22—19—3½.

(4) (a) No undersized trees were felled in the forests.
(b) Twenty-four.

(5) Yes. Rs. 1,093—8—6.

(6) Yes.

(7) Yes. 35 of Cds. 52—2—11—13½.

(8) The Forester concerned marked the trees to be felled. The Conservator of Forests also himself inspected many of the marked trees and passed them.

(9) No list was prepared and submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer.

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